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NEWTOWN AND LLANLLWCHAIARN URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT

of the Medical Officer of Health and of the

Public Health Inspector for the year

1959

MINISTRY OF HEALTH LIBRARY

Medical Officer of Health

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Town Hall, Newtown. Telephone Newtown 246.

CHief Public Health Inspector

W.G.Davies, M.P.H.I.A., M.R.S.H., M.R.I.P.H.H.
Town Hall, Newtown. Telephone Newtown 246.

NEWTOWN AND LLANLLUCHAIARN URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Chairman - Councillor E. Walter Evans.
ViceChairman - Councillor W.G.Ivor Jones.

Members - Councillors Mrs.J.D.Smith,
Mrs.M.E.Evans,
Mrs.D.M.Dallas,
J.E.Neale,
R.J.Brymer Griffith
V.Davies,
C.A.Hopkinson,
Thomas Jarman,
Seymour Roberts,
V.N.Went,
Joseph Watkin,
H.L.D.Jenkins,
R.G.Davies and
Edmund Payne.

Public Health and Water Committee

Chairman - Councillor Mrs.J.D.Smith,
Vice Chairman - Councillor Mrs.D.M.Dallas.

Members - Councillors Mrs.E.W.Evans,
R.J.Brymer Griffith,
W.G.Ivor Jones,
J.E.Neale,
V.Davies, and
E. Walter Evans (Chairman of the Council) ex officio.

Staff

Medical Officer of Health - Mrs.Amelia Evans.

Chief Public Health Inspector - Mr.W.G.Davies.

Additional Public Health Inspector - Mr.W.A.Young.

Rodent Operator - Mr.Harry Matthews.

Administrative Clerk - Mr.Ken Hamer.

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TO: The Chairman and Members of the Newtown and Llanllwchaiarn Urban District Council.

Once again it is my duty to present to you the Annual report on the health and sanitary conditions in your area for the year 1959.

Staff

There were no staff changes in the Public Health Department in 1959.

Vital Statistics

These figures are based on the Registrar Generals mid-year estimate of the population and these are the estimates for the last 9 years -

1951	5386
1952	5276
1953	5334
1954	5360
1955	5360
1956	5380
1957	5370
1958	5360
1959	5370

There were 85 live births which gives a rate of 15.83 per 1,000 population compared with 16.42 in 1958.

This rate in the urban areas of the County was 15.21 and in Montgomeryshire 15.60.

There were 2 still births giving a percentgge of 2.4 of the live births. There were none in 1958. The rate in the urban areas was 2.6% and in Montgomeryshire 2.9%.

There were 2 illegitimate births being 2.3% of total births compared with 1.1% in 1958. In the urban areas this rate was 5.0% and in Montgomeryshire 5.1%.

Infant Mortality

There were 2 deaths of infants under 1 year giving a rate per 1,000 live births of 24, compared with 11 in the urban districts and 17 in the whole county. The rate in 1958 was 23 per 1,000 live births.

One of these deaths occured in a girl of 10 months and was due to scarlet fever and the other occured in a girl who died at 25 minutes with a congenital abnormality.

Deaths

There were 76 deaths giving a rate of 14.15 per 1,000 population compared with 14.31 in the urban areas and 13.04 in the whole county. The rate for 1958 was 10.82 per 1,000 population. There was no death due to tuberculosis.

National Assistance Act, 1947, Section 47.

An elderly lady living alone and requiring the services of a home help and not taking proper care of herself and receiving no such care from anyone was removed under this section to Y-Dolydd, Llanfyllin.

Use of the power under this Act is only taken after much thought and consideration and I can assure the Council that every other means of helping such people are first investigated. But there does occur the odd case especially in elderly people who have gone past caring for themselves and absolutely refuse assistance from relatives, neighbours or anyone else. This was such a case.

Water Supplies

Because the summer of 1959 was remarkably dry and the previous winter had not been so wet as formerly, the level of water at the reservoir began to fall towards the end of August. Then warnings were issued in the town preventing the use of hosepipes for watering gardens and cleansing vehicles and asking the public to co-operate in the saving of water. Despite these measures it was necessary to ration water by cutting off the supply to the town between 6 p.m. and 7 a.m. for a period of three weeks in October.

In the lower levels of the town there is normally a constant supply of water throughout the day but in some of the higher levels the supply is intermittent .

Waste detection continues as a normal routine measure.

Sewers

During the year under review, Messrs Herbert Bateman and Partners were asked to prepare a scheme to improve the sewers and sewage disposal. By the end of 1959 this report was not to hand.

Slaughterhouses

In May 1959 the Council closed its Slaughterhouse in Stone Street because conditions were not satisfactory.

The two private slaughterhouses continued and the hygienic practice at both was of a high standard.

Meat inspection continues on a 100% basis.

Refuse Tip

Tipping continues at the refuse tip at Garth Owen. The provision of a Bulldozer for controlled tipping was discussed and this is at present working at the tip, since when there have been no complaints regarding fly infestation.

Housing

Slum Clearance - The following Clearance Areas were confirmed -
Union Street, being two areas dealing with 19 houses
Pool Road - dealing with 6 houses, 4 of which belong to the local Authority
Stone Street - 4 houses all belonging to the local authority.

A closing order was placed on one house.
Twenty-four houses built at Crescent Gardens for slum clearance purposes were all occupied. No houses were erected for general need applicants.

Plans were approved for 32 flats to be erected in the Canal Road area.

Seven houses were built by private enterprise.

Again I feel I must express my sincere thanks to my colleagues in the Public Health Department for their co-operation in all matters which I have to tackle.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,

Amelia Evans
Medical Officer of Health.

Town Hall,
NEWTOWN.
Montgomeryshire.
September, 1960.

STATISTICS.	1959.	1958.
Area in acres.	7,234	7,224
Population.	5,370	5,360
Rateable Value.	£63,507	£62,217
Penny Products	£250.15. 9.	£242. 1.11.

(based on Registrar General's Mid Year Estimate).

LIVE BIRTHS.	Male.	Female.	Total.	Male.	Female.	Total
Legitimate.	42	41	83	48	39	87
Illegitimate.	2	-	2	-	1	1
Total.	44	41	85	48	40	88
Number of Home Confinements.			16			17

Birth Rate per 1,000 Population.	1959.	1958.
(a) Newtown U.D. Area.	15.83	16.42
(b) Urban areas in County.	15.21	16.61
(c) Rural areas in County.	15.86	15.68
(d) Montgomeryshire.	15.60	16.05
(e) England & Wales.	16.5	16.4
Illegitimate Live Births per cent of total Live Births.	2.35	1.13

STILL BIRTHS.	1959.	1958.
Legitimate.	2	-
Illegitimate.	-	-
Total number live and still births.	87	88

Rate per 1,000 total live & still births.	1959.	1958.
(a) Newtown U.D. Area.	23.	-
(b) Urban Areas of County.	25.2	10
(c) Rural areas of County.	29.4	28
(d) Montgomeryshire.	27.8	21
(e) England & Wales.	20.7	21.6

INFANT MORTALITY.	Male.	Female.	Total.	Male.	Female.	Total.
Deaths of infants under 4 weeks.	-	1	1	2	-	2
Deaths of infants under 1 week.	-	1	1	2	-	2
Deaths of Infants under 1 year.	-	2	2	2	-	2
		(Both Legitimate)				

Infant Deaths per 1,000 live births.	1959.	1958.
(a) Newtown U.D. Area.	24	23
(b) Urban Areas of County.	11	24
(c) Rural Areas of County.	21	26
(d) Montgomeryshire.	17	25
(e) England & Wales.	22	22.5
Legitimate infant deaths per 1,000 legitimate live births.	24.1	23.
Illegitimate infant deaths per 1,000 illegitimate live births.	-	-
Neo natal mortality rate (deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 total live births).	11.7	23
Early neo-natal mortality rate (deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total live births).	11.7	23
Perinatal mortality rate (still births & deaths under 1 week combined, per 1,000 total live and still births).	34.4	23
Maternal Mortality.	-	-

DEATHS. (All Causes).	Male.	Female.	Total.	Male.	Female.	Total.
All Ages.	41	35	76	28	30	58

DEATHS.	1959.	1958.
Death Rate per 1,000 Population.		
(a) Newtown U.D. Area.	14.15	10.82
(b) Urban Areas in County.	14.31	12.22
(c) Rural Areas in County.	12.19	12.83
(d) Montgomeryshire.	13.04	12.59
(e) England & Wales.	11.6	11.7

AGE AT DEATH.	1959			1958		
Age in Years.	Male.	Female.	Total.	Male.	Female.	Total.
Under 1 year.	-	2	2	2	-	2
1 - 5	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 -	-	-	-	1	-	1
15 -	-	-	-	1	-	1
25 -	1	1	2	1	-	1
35 -	1	1	2	-	1	1
45 -	3	1	4	3	1	4
55 -	10	2	12	6	4	10
65 -	9	10	19	6	10	16
75 -	10	9	19	6	9	15
85 and over.	7	9	16	2	5	7
Total.	41	35	76	28	30	58

CAUSES OF DEATH.	1959			1958		
Respiratory Tuberculosis.	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other forms of Tuberculosis.	-	-	-	-	-	-
Syphilitic Diseases.	-	-	-	-	-	-
Diphtheria.	-	-	-	-	-	-
Whooping Cough.	-	-	-	-	-	-
Meningococcal infections.	-	-	-	-	-	-
Acute Poliomyelitis.	-	-	-	-	-	-
Measles.	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other infective and parasitic diseases.	-	1	1	-	-	-
Malignant neoplasm:-						
Stomach.	-	2	2	-	3	3
Lung, bronchus.	2	-	2	2	-	2
Breast.	-	1	1	-	2	2
Uterus.	-	2	2	-	-	-
Other Malignant & lymphatic neoplasms.	3	-	3	-	2	2
Leukaemia.	-	-	-	-	-	-
Diabetes.	-	-	-	-	1	1
Vascular lesions of nervous system.	8	7	15	4	5	9
Coronary disease, angina.	8	5	13	3	-	3
Hypertension with heart disease.	1	-	1	2	1	3
Other heart disease.	5	7	12	4	14	18
Other circulatory disease.	1	-	1	2	1	3
Influenza.	2	2	4	-	-	-
Pneumonia.	1	2	3	-	-	-
Bronchitis.	3	2	5	2	-	2
Other diseases of respiratory system.	2	-	2	-	-	-
Ulcer of stomach, duodenum.	1	-	1	-	-	-
Gastritis, enteritis, diarrhoea.	-	-	-	-	-	-
Nephritis, nephrosis.	-	-	-	-	-	-
Hyperplasia of prostate.	1	-	1	1	-	1
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion.	-	-	-	-	-	-
Congenital malformations.	-	1	1	-	-	-
Other defined and ill-defined diseases.	2	2	4	5	1	6
Motor vehicle accidents.	-	-	-	1	-	1
All other accidents.	-	-	-	-	-	-
Suicide.	1	1	2	1	-	1
Homicide.	-	-	-	1	-	1
	41	35	76	28	30	58

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The following notifications were received during 1959:-

Meningococcal (meningitis)	-	1
Scarlatina.	-	4
Measles.	-	42

Age and Sex distribution of Measles.	Male.	Female.
Age.		
Under 1	1	-
1 -	2	1
2 -	3	3
3 -	3	1
4 -	2	7
5 - 9	9	6
10 - 14	1	-
15 - 24	-	-
25 and over.	-	1
Age unknown.	-	2
(All notified between April - Sept. 1959)	21	21

TUBERCULOSIS.

Three new cases were notified during the year:-

(1) A man aged 39 with pulmonary tuberculosis.
(2) A man aged 25 with pulmonary tuberculosis.
(3) A girl aged 16 with pulmonary tuberculosis.

Two of these cases worked in the same establishment in the Town, and at my request the mass radiography unit visited this establishment and X-rayed all who vilunteered.

	Male.	Female.	Total.
Total number examined.	19	128	147
Total found to be abnormal cases.	1	1	2
Referred to Chest Physician as cases requiring further investigation.	1	1	2
Other abnormalities of the chest.	-	-	-

The Unit continuedto visit the Town at roughly monthly intervals, and is now based at Park Street Clinic.

Two cases were removed from the register in 1959 - both due to recovery:-

(1) A woman who was 27 in 1954 when notified with tubercular glands of the neck.
(2) A man who was aged 19 in 1955 when notified with pulmonary tuberculosis.

At the end of the year there were 40 cases on the register. This is a summary of the register at the end of the year.

Year Notified.	Number still on the register notified in that year.
1939.	1
1945.	1
1947.	1
1948.	2
1949.	3
1950.	2
1951.	5
1952.	4
1953.	3
1954.	3
1955.	1
1956.	2
1957.	5
1958.	4
1959.	3

Vaccination against tuberculosis was carried out in the High Schools throughout the County and offered to children of 13 years and over:-

	Newtown Boys High School.	Newtown Girls High School.	County Technical School.
Mantoux Tested.	40	62	19
Mantoux positive.	6	12	2
Mantoux negative.	31 (3 absent)	48(2 absent)	17
B.C.G. vaccinated.	31	48	17
Post B.C.G.Mantoux tested.	30 (1 absent)	47(1 absent)	17
Post B.C.G. positive.	28	43	15
Post B.C.G. negative.	1 (1 absent)	1(3 absent)	2

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE URBAN AREA.

AMBULANCE.

The local service is the St. John Ambulance and is responsible to the Ambulance Committee of the County Council Health Service.

Telephone - 9.a.m. to 5.p.m. - Newtown 205
After 5 p.m. - Newtown 359

Sitting Car Service:- All requests to the County Health Offices, Newtown. Tel. No. Newtown 205.

CHILDREN'S OFFICER.

This Office is established by the County Council under the terms of the Children's Act 1948.

The officer is:-

Mr. W.E. Jones.
County Offices, Welshpool. Tel. Welshpool.3311.

The Children's reception home is at:-

12, Bronwylfa, Welshpool. Tel. Welshpool.3109.

DOMICILLARY MIDWIFERY AND HOME NURSING.

The district is served by:-

Sister C. Lloyd Jones.
Brynoglwys, Newtown. Tel. Newtown 497.

HEALTH VISITOR.

The Health Visitor for the Urban District is:-

Miss N.L. Jones.
County Health Offices, Newtown.

HOME HELP SERVICE.

Particulars of this service can be obtained from the home help supervisor:-

Mrs. Rhoda Goodwin.
County Health Offices, Newtown. Tel. Newtown. 205.

CARE OF THE AGED.

This service is provided by the Welfare Committee of the County Council and the local home established for the care of the aged is Plascaecwm, Newtown.

Many aged people do not wish however to live in a community composed entirely of elderly people, they want their own homes with their own furniture. They are, however, often to be found living in houses which are very much sub-standard and with low rent. The Council will, no doubt, make some provision for the elderly in this district by building dwellings suitable for these people, near to the shops and with no hilly approach. So far nothing specifically for the elderly has been built in this town.

It is in caring for the aged in their own homes that the home help service is of inestimable value.

HOSPITALS.

The Montgomery County Infirmary is controlled by the Mid Wales Hospital Management Committee at Aberystwyth. Medical, surgical and midwifery cases are admitted.

LABORATORY SERVICE.

Branches of the Public Health Laboratory Service are at the Royal Salop Infirmary, Shrewsbury and at the Cardiganshire General Hospital, Aberystwyth.

LABORATORY SERVICE (cont).

In connection with this service I should like to express my gratitude to Dr. Sudds, who is in charge of the Laboratory at Aberystwyth. She is a most co-operative colleague.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

The County Council is responsible for this service and clinics are held every Wednesday afternoon at the Park Street Clinic.

DENTAL CLINIC.

The County Council is responsible for this service, and dental clinics are held at Park Street for the treatment of school children. The County was very unfortunate in 1959, it had to rely on the services of only one whole time dental officer.

TUBERCULOSIS.

This service is controlled by the regional hospital board and Dr. G.O. Thomas, the chest physician, hold clinics at the local hospital on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays at 11 a.m.

The Mass Radiography Unit continued to visit the town throughout the year approximately once a month.

VACCINATION AGAINST SMALL POX.

This procedure is carried out in this district by the general practitioners, and every parent is encouraged to have their babies vaccinated.

PROTECTION AGAINST DIPHTHERIA AND WHOOPING COUGH.

Immunisation against diphtheria is carried out at approximately the 6th and 7th month followed by a booster dose at 5 years.

Whooping cough injections are given at 3,4 and months. There do not appear to be so many cases of whooping cough notified as previously and when it does occur in previously immunised children the attack seems to be of less severity.

VACCINATION AGAINST POLIOMYELITIS.

The age limit in 1959 was extended to 26 and visits were made to the various factories in the Town where vaccination was carried out. Clinics are held at fairly regular intervals at Park Street for this vaccination and the response on the whole in this age group was quite good.

To: The Chairman and Members of the Newtown and Llanllwchaiarn Urban District Council.

I wish once again to submit my contribution to the Annual Report for 1959.

Many matters appertaining to Public Health came under review and routine work proceeded of a very varied nature.

I would like to take this opportunity of thanking all members of the Council and colleagues on the staff for their continued help and support.

Yours obediently,

SURVEYOR, CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR & WATER MANAGER.

INSPECTION OF THE AREA

The inspections made by the Public Health Inspectors during the year numbered 5,319 and details as to the nature of these inspections are given below:-

SUMMARY

(1)	Number of houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health Acts)	... 78
(2)	Number of houses inspected for other than Housing defects	... 136
(3)	Premises other than houses inspected (including visits to Industrial Premises)	... 3847
(4)	Premises re-inspected(including houses)	... 267
(5)	Works in progress(including houses)	... 320
(6)	Miscellaneous visits	... 671
		5319

1.	Slaughter House	367
2.	Visits to premises where food is prepared,stored or exposed for sale	117
3.	Premises & Vehicles where Ice Cream is prepared or sold	6
4.	Visits to bakehouses	4
5.	Visits to fish shops	11
6.	Visits to food stalls	277
7.	Dairies,Milk Shops & Vehicles	45
8.	Cafes & Restaurants	9
9.	Visits to Butchers Shops	35
10.	Shops Acts Inspections	-
11.	Factories with mechanical power	122
12.	Factories without mechanical power	4
13.	Visits to schools	-
14.	Visits to tents vans and sheds	10
15.	Visits to Council House applicants	3
16.	Drains tested	44
17.	Smoke observations made	-
18.	Urinals & Public Conveniences	59
19.	Visits under Petroleum Acts	18
20.	Visits re collection or disposal of refuse	60
21.	Rodent Control	10
22.	Building Bye Law (Inspections)	153
23.	Council House Inspections(Including hutments)	884
24.	Water Supply	459
25.	District Roads	198
26.	Milk Samples	7

INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES

Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (Under Public Health Acts) 78

Repairs: Informal action-
Number of houses unfit but rendered fit during period as a result of informal action 40

Action made under Statutory Powers -
Number of houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notice -
(a) By owners 2
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners 0

HOUSING STATISTICS

Number of houses erected since 1945:
By Local Authority 282
By Private Enterprise 99

Number of houses erected during 1959
By Local Authority 24
By Private Enterprise 7

Temporary Accommodation
1 hut remained occupied at 31st December in Glandulas Camp.
Efforts are continuing to close down this temporary hut.

MEAT INSPECTION

Routine meat inspection at the Council's Slaughter House at Stone Street continued until 30th May 1959 and the private slaughter houses at Great Brimmon and Lower Brimmon was carried on throughout the year. The high quality of the animals slaughtered reflects in the low figure of condemnations.

	Cattle.	Calves.	Sheep.	Pigs.	Total
Number Killed	221	-	1483	323	2027
Number Inspected	221	-	1483	323	2027
Diseases other than T.B	-	-			
(Whole carcases)	-	-	3	-	3
(Part carcases)	-	-	-	1	1
Percentage of number inspected with diseases other than T.B.	-		0.2	0.3	0.19
Whole carcases (T.B.only)	-	-	-	-	-
Part carcases condemned (T.B.only)	-	-	-	-	-

Condemned food is disposed of at the Council's Refuse tip under supervision and all condemned meat covered with dye to render unsaleable.

WATER SUPPLY

All chemical and bacteriological samples taken during the year were reported satisfactory

INSPECTION OF FOOD AND FOOD PREMISES

During the year 12 cwts 64 lbs of foodstuffs,including canned foods,were condemned as unfit for human consumption.

FACTORIES ACTS 1937 & 1948

	No. on Register	Inspections
(1) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4,&6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	5	4
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	37	122
(3) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers premises)	5	-
TOTAL	47	126